

VetWorking Conference held

The Indiana VetWorking conference was recently held at the Brickyard Crossing Inn in Indianapolis. The conference gave local veterans representatives an opportunity to compare notes and learn what new services are available from state, regional and national officials.

Incentive awards were given to those who have gone beyond the call of duty when serving veterans. A motivational speaker and comedian spoke during the luncheon, providing encouragement and humor to those who serve veterans.

Employment Trends

August Unemployment Rate

Indiana's non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for August was 4.9 percent. This is five-tenths of a percentage point below the national rate of 5.4 percent.

3,015,100 Hoosiers were employed during August.

Indiana's August unemployment rate was lower than Michigan, 6.2 percent; Ohio, 5.8 percent; and Illinois at 6.1 percent. Kentucky's rate was lower at 4.7 percent.

August Unemployment Insurance Stats

Number of UI Claims Filed:

| | |
|-----------------|--------|
| Week of 8-7-04 | 56,749 |
| Week of 8-14-04 | 54,757 |
| Week of 8-21-04 | 55,026 |
| Week of 8-28-04 | 53,970 |

Indiana@Work

The East Central Indiana Workforce Investment Board is sponsoring a seminar on the WorkKeys® system. The seminar is being held on October 12, 2004 in Muncie.

WorkKeys® which is an integral part of Indiana@Work identifies skills needed to perform certain tasks, assesses the skills of new, existing and potential employees and offers training to upgrade skill levels. These services are all offered free of charge.

For more information about the WorkKeys® seminar contact Ray Starks at (765) 348-1160.

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Developments

HOOSIER WORKERS & LIFELONG LEARNING ONLINE NEWS

Breaking News

Workforce development programs ranked 9th by national magazine

Indiana's workforce development programs were ranked the ninth best in the country according to a survey conducted by a national economic development publication. The ranking, which appears in the latest edition of *Expansion Management*, evaluated Indiana's Skills Enhancement Fund, Advance Indiana and the Technology Enhancement Certification for Hoosiers (TECH) fund grants.

Advance Indiana is an umbrella program of grant opportunities available through the Department of Workforce Development, that includes the Advance Indiana grant, Skill Trades Apprenticeship, and Incumbent Worker Training fund. Although each targets different populations, the grant requires that the programs focus on the needs of the existing workforce and carries a maximum award of \$200,000.

Alumni Day honors 28 individuals and six business partners

The Department of Workforce Development honored 28 individuals with a personal achievement award and six business partners for outstanding achievement while participating in Indiana's workforce development system during the 15th annual Alumni Day ceremony. The awards were presented by Alan Degner, commissioner of DWD along with Jeffrey Howe, chair of the Workforce Investment Board Association on September 16 in the State House Rotunda.

"Today's business and individual winners epitomize what the workforce development system is all about. I am so excited to be able to put a face with the statistics and numbers that I usually get to talk about. There is nothing better than seeing an individual who has come through the system, used the tools available and reached the career steps they have been striving for," said Degner.

State government to reorganize

Gov. Joe Kernan and Lt. Gov. Kathy Davis announced plans for major changes to state government. In an attempt to make State government more accountable and to make it easier for Hoosiers to get the programs and services they need while finding ways to cut waste and save taxpayers both time and money, State government will take on a new structure.

Currently workforce programs are housed in Commerce, Workforce Development and Family and Social Services. Many times, business owners aren't aware of the training resources available to them.

Under the reorganization the state's training and workforce development programs will be under the lieutenant governor who will serve as the cabinet secretary for Commerce and Workforce. This will bring together important resources for new and existing businesses, provide better coordination of these programs and services and make it easier for Hoosier business owners to get the tools they need.

